(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government on the findings of survey and the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Global Indian Survey conducted by A.C. Nielsen for B.B.C. World gives information regarding media consumption, cultural uniqueness and international interest of Indian consumers. The survey is an important tool for advertisers and international marketers interests in India.

Guidelines to Develop Backward Districts of country

3577. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized the guidelines to develop the backward districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by when these are likely to be finalized and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Guidelines for the Backward Regions Grant Fund will be finalized after obtaining necessary approvals to the scheme.

Special status to Bihar

†3578. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the proposal passed by the Bihar Legislative Assembly in which a demand has been made to grant the special status to Bihar;

(b) whether any memorandum or request has been received from the State Government in this regard; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.